

REMARKS

Claims 1-35, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-9, 21 and 32-35, drawn to a biocompatible matrix, for examination in this application. In addition, claims 10-20 and 22-30 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly to claim 1, so that these claims should be examined together with the elected claims of Group I.

It is submitted that all claims should be examined together as they now are related as compositions and method of making or using the same. For a complete examination of the composition claims, the method of making these compositions must also be considered. As the methods must be reviewed for that reason, it should not be an additional burden on the Examiner to evaluate the patentability of these methods. In addition, even if the method claims are withdrawn at this time, it is understood that those claims will be re-introduced and allowed when an allowable composition claim is found.

It is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. In the event that the Examiner does not agree that all claims are now allowable, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

4/3/06
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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